AARCOVER

Keeping Austin Wireless for Over 94 Years!

Bulletin of Austin Amateur Radio Clubs ISSN 1067-0262

June 2014 **Issue 6-2014**

Field Day 2014 June 28-29

For several years, Austin Amateur Radio Club and its ARES group have been graciously hosted by the Red Cross Chapter for our Field Day weekend, a Saturday to Sunday 24 hour operation. This year, that will be June 28 and 29,2014. We set up radio stations entirely powered by emergency power, and independent of pre-installed antennas at the Chapter.

Please, as done last year, we would like to get permission to do Field Day, setting up in Bldg. B, using Class Room A and the DOC room for our stations.

We are having a BBQ dinner Sat. evening with Joe Fisher as our chef of BBQ and beans, with pot luck side dishes, salads and desserts brought by the club members. The Red Cross Disaster Staff is heartily invited.

I anticipate that the only class on June 28 might be the Summer Babysitting Class that meets in Classroom B, which has co-existed with Field Day a number of years.
The Field Day runs 8AM Sat. to start set up, then 1 PM Sat. to 1PM Sun. Taking down antennas and equipment usually takes until 4 PM to pack up.
Thanks for the Disaster Services support of ARES in past Field Days, and we hope to continue the tradition.

Periodic Events

Sun	7:00 p.m.	Travis ARES net	147.36 MHz + (131.8)
Sun	8:00 p.m.	Travis ARES Packet	145.73 MHz -
Sun	8:00 p.m.	Williamson ARES net	146.64 MHz - (162.2)
Sun	9:00 p.m.	ARO Swapnet	146.94 MHz -
Sun	(After Swapnet)	Newsline	146.94 MHz -
Mon.	7:30 p.m.	STX ARES Net	3.873 MHz
Tues.	7:30 p.m.	Hays ARES net	147.100 +
Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Bastrop ARES Net	443.750 + (114.8)
Wed	11:30 a.m.	Ham Social Luncheon, Jim's	146.94 MHz -
Thu	9:00 p.m.	2m SSB Net	144.250 (USB)
Thu	11:00 a.m.	Lunch, Pokey Joe's 183&Great Hills	444.1 MHz+
Fri	8:00 p.m.	6m SSB Net	50.230(texasvhf.org/)
Sat	7:00 - 8:30a.m.	Breakfast @ Waterloo Ice House	444.1 MHz +
Sat	9:00 a.m.	Chapter 67 QCWA QSO Net.	3.920 MHz LSB
Daily	6:30 p.m.	Central Texas Traffic Net	147.14MHz+

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Ham Radio Exams Results

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on May 1st in Austin, TX:

Technician Class Licenses Processed

Sanford R. Bryan KG5BWS Kevin L. Lemon KG5BWU Linda D. Moorer KG5BWT

Examiners Participating in this Test Session
Carol Thiel N5TLY Joe Thiel N5SMN Roy Walker WA5YZD

The following are the results of the ARRL VE Test Session held on May 3rd at Bethany United Methodist Church:

Technician Class Licenses Processed
Shenwei T. Chang KG5CAP Donald R. Erminger KG5CAM David N. Groves KG5CAQ
Robert W. Lilljedahl KG5CAO Ian T. Merritt KG5CAL Subramanian Radhakrishnan KG5CAN
Tam Thompson KG5CAJ Bastiaan van der Veer KG5CAK

General Class Licenses Processed
Richard A. Allcorn KG5BKM John T. Payne KG5BKI Robert J. Peek KF5ZMC
Russell W. Stoddard KG6FUJ

Extra Class License Processed
William A. Hall N5AIO

Examiners Participating in this Test Session
Joe Bryan K5BRY Larry Gunter WB5BEK Steve Lang WB5ZIL
Joe Makeever W5HS Joe Thiel N5SMN Bill Wehling N5VE

Next ARRL VE Test Sessions
June 7th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204
July 5th - Bethany United Methodist Church, Disciple Bldg. Room 203/204

TNX ES 73 DE W5HS
Joe

5-20-14
The South Austin W5YI VE team heartily congratulates the following people who earned new or upgraded amateur radio licenses at our May 17th session:
Extra Class Timothy Wieting, KD5MTG
General Class William Baker, KF5VGK
Technician Class (NEW)

Richard Ingels	Adam Iscoe	Adrienne Young	Cameron Dube
Cynthia Sawtelle	Ryan LeViseur	Coster Archibald. Jr.	Jad Davis
Merit Gainley	Steven Maus	Donald Lewis	Jeffrey Sarich
Reid Sullivan	Bryan Lueckenotte	Ali Hasan	Matthew Wegner
Michael Davis, Jr.	Steven Faulkner		

Our administering volunteer examiners were:
Craig Bean, AC5KW Gary Popp, AE5JR
Matt Porcher, K5LF Jim Peisker, AF5NP

Our next two amateur radio exam sessions will start at
2 PM on June 21st and July 19th in
Fleck Hall, room 118 on the campus of St. Edward's University.
All sessions are walk-in and the exam fee is $14 .

For additional information regarding our amateur radio examination sessions,
please contact Craig, AC5KW at (512) 474-6443 or by e-mail to
hamradioexams@hotmail.com or visit our web page at http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/

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TC ARES PIO	Steven Polunsky	W5SMP		tcares-pio@gmail.net

Please contact a club officer, attend a meeting, mail us to join the organization, you can also join or renew online.
The Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (AARC) has annual membership dues of $20.00 per person or $30.00 per family. AARC maintains the following repeaters:

FREQUENCY	AUTOPATCH	USE
146.780	No	
146.880	Yes	General
146.940 107.2 PL Tone	No	Most popular, WX, Swapnet & Newsline
224.800	No	
444.100	No	
440.650 +5	No	70cm D-Star Repeater [W5KA]
146.480/+1.0	No	2m D-Star Repeater [W5KA C]
1293.200/-20	No	23cm D-Star Repeater[W5KA A]
1248.200	No	23cm D-Star DD (data, simp./reversible)[W5KA A]

Persons using the repeaters are asked to join the club to help support these valuable resources. To use the autopatch, announce your call sign, press * and dial the phone number then release the PTT. When finished, press # to hang up the phone. Dial 911 (no * needed) for emergency services.

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Members and other readers are encouraged to submit material for publication. Call Mitch London, if mailed submissions are
required. Electronic files are encouraged! Submissions may be edited for publication. **Deadline is the 22nd of the month.**

Material may be used in a later issue. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint AARCOVER articles, provided you credit the author and the AARCOVER.
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For Changes in your ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER or CALL SIGN:
See Jay Hoffman, KA5OST ka5ost @ arrl.net
Jay handles all changes for membership information .

Haiti—4 Years Later

Forwarded by Stuart Rohre, K5KVH

When a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Port-au-Prince Haiti on January 12, 2010, the Red Cross community responded immediately to bring emergency relief to millions of Haitians, and to begin the long and difficult process of rebuilding.

American Red Cross: Haiti 4-Year Report Program Highlights

Dear Stuart,

January 12, 2010 was a day unlike Haiti had ever seen. When a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti, generous donors responded immediately to provide lifesaving emergency relief to millions of Haitians and to begin the long and difficult process of rebuilding.

*Today, four years later, we reflect on the road to recovery which has been made possible by the incredibly resilient spirit of the Haitian people and the commitment of volunteers and supporters like you.
*
Here are some of the ways donations given in response to the Haiti earthquake have been put to work: <http://american.redcross.org/site/R?i=pOhZ03hfzExmYpj-1Sf4Qg>

* 665,000 people benefited from community health services
* 108,900 people reached through housing/neighborhood recovery
* 3.2 million people benefited from cholera prevention and outbreak response services

The work continues, and I wanted to make sure you have the latest update.

To learn more about the progress in Haiti over the past four years, please read our new report.

Thanks to generous donations, more than 4.4 million Haitians have received assistance from the American Red Cross since the earthquake.

Virtually all of the $486 million donated to the American Red Cross following the earthquake has been spent, committed or allocated to help meet the needs of people affected and to build their capacity to respond to future disasters.

It hasn't been easy and with your support, we are still on the ground in Haiti. We are continuing to work alongside the Haitian government, the Haitian Red Cross, local authorities, community members, and local and international partners to create safer and more resilient communities in Haiti, as well as address risks to health and well-being in a holistic way.

*None of this would be possible without the support of the Red Cross community. You have our deepest gratitude for the recovery efforts you've made possible. *

Sincerely,

David Meltzer
Chief International Officer
American Red Cross

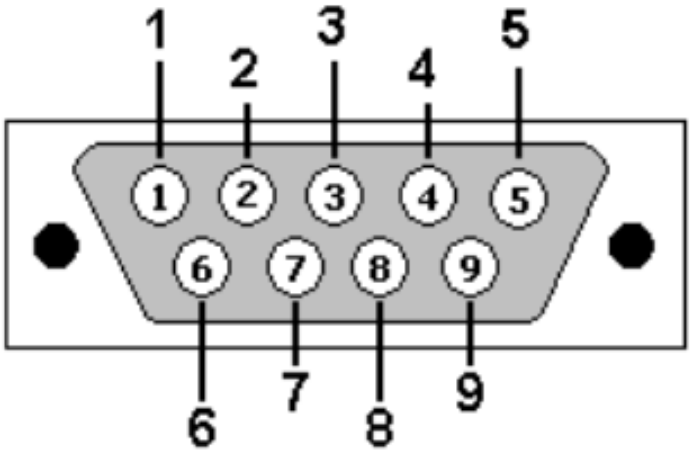
Never Assume Anything (about cabling, at least)!

by Joe Fisher, K5EJL

The title here is taken from a piece I read in some electronics magazine many years ago about diagnosing errant serial port computer connections. It was worth remembering.

Recently while "Elmer"-ing (mentoring) at K5LBJ, the LASA H.S. ARC (formerly LBJ H.S. ARC) we encountered an audio patch cable purchased new from a local store of a national electronics retailer. It was a simple center conductor with "shield" cable, 6' long, terminated at each end with a molded-on 3.5 mm male mono plug. The retailer's name logo was molded into the termination.

After several attempts to get two pieces of equipment joined by this cable to operate correctly, we examined it independently with a DVM. Yep, it was shorted internally between the conductors, somewhere. So we built a new cable from scratch which worked fine.



"But wait!" As the TV promoter of late, Billy May might say, "There's more!" There being no reasonable, practical way to repair such a thing, we clipped off one end leaving about 6" of cable attached to that end's connector. Sadly, it was not shorted.

Assuming the clipped end was OK, we tested the end connected to the long side of the cable; yep, it was shorted. Oh, heck. For no good reason, we tested the "clipped off" short cable end. Its center conductor was OPEN! How bad can this get?

We clipped off the plug and about 6" of cable on the long run. Sur'nuf, that plug or, perhaps the 6" of cable was shorted. Thus, after testing the remaining cable with no plugs, what we had was about 5' of good audio cable AND some good "education". After all, that's what a H.S. radio club should be about, right, "education"?

I'm very keen on the "discovery" method of learning. When one discovers something new for himself, he never really forgets it. We'll certainly never forget that cable!

Petition to Expand RFID Use on 70 Centimeters Withdrawn

ARRL Bulletin 9 ARLB009

The FCC has dismissed without prejudice a Petition for Rule Making (RM-11651) by Lockheed Martin that would have amended the Commission's Part 15 rules to expand deployment of the company's radio frequency identification (RFID) system in the 433 MHz band (433.5-434.5 MHz). Lockheed Martin sold its RFID business 2 years ago, but the company only this month requested that the Petition be withdrawn and the proceeding terminated.

The ARRL had staunchly opposed the Lockheed Martin petition, which the firm filed on behalf of its subsidiary, Savi Technology. The League locked horns with Savi years ago, when the company successfully petitioned the FCC to amend its Part 15 rules governing periodic radiators to permit high-power, near-continuous duty RFID tags in the 433 MHz band. As a concession to opponents, the FCC limited deployment of the devices to "commercial and industrial areas" and allowed their use only for tracking "commercial shipping containers." Lockheed Martin acquired Savi Technologies in 2006.

The now-dismissed petition would have expanded the frequency range of the RFID tags to 433.05-434.79 MHz, required listen-before-transmit protocols to avoid interference to Amateur Radio, eliminated a manufacturer registration requirement, and dropped rules that prohibited deploying the devices outside "commercial or industrial areas" and limited their application to "commercial shipping containers."

The ARRL filed vigorous opposition to the Lockheed Martin Petition in January 2012, saying that Lockheed's petition "seeks to undo virtually all of the few interference protections" the FCC had adopted in 2004, "solely on the basis of vaguely stated advances in RFID technology." Other Part 15 device manufacturers also opposed any expansion of the high-power application.

A May 14 Commission letter from FCC Office of Engineering and Technology Chief Julius P. Knapp said that on the basis of Lockheed Martin's Petition and the comments filed on it, "we do not find sufficient basis to propose rules," and determined that the original petition "does not warrant" FCC consideration. Knapp added, however, "Any party interested in pursuing changes to the rules for RFID operations in the 433 MHz band may file a new petition."

FUNcube Launch

Sponsors of the FUNcube Project — a joint initiative of AMSAT-UK and AMSAT-NL (Netherlands) — have announced that FUNcube 2 will launch from Russia on June 19. The initial plan of the now 4-year-old project was to design, build, and launch a single spacecraft. As further flight opportunities have become available over the past months, however, the FUNcube Project has expanded. UKube-1 will "host" FUNcube-2 — actually a set of FUNcube boards that will fly as a sub-system of the 3U UKube-1 CubeSat. Its goals are identical to those of FUNcube-1. The goal of the FUNcube project is to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiatives now underway in the US, the UK, and elsewhere. The target audience is primary and secondary school students.

"It is believed that, immediately after deployment and activation, UKube-1 will commence transmitting a CW beacon, and that this will be later followed by an AX25, 1k2 BPSK beacon," AMSAT-UK announced on May 7. "Both beacons will be on 145.840 MHz. The FUNcube-2 payload, with its telemetry downlink for educational outreach, is expected to be tested later."
Once it's operational, FUNcube-2 will include a 400 mW inverting SSB/CW transponder (435.080-435.060 MHz up/145.930-145.950 MHz down), with a beacon on 145.915 MHz. The UKube-1 satellite, being built by Clyde Space in Glasgow, Scotland, would be the UK Space Agency's first CubeSat, as well as the first satellite built in Scotland.

Believed to be not too far down the road, a FUNcube-3 400 mW transponder-only payload on the pre-cursor QB50P1 CubeSat host is planned for launch "no earlier than the second half of June" on a Dnepr LV vehicle from Russia. Initial beacon signals from the main transceiver are expected to be AX25, 1k2 BPSK packets on 145.815 MHz.

FUNcube-1 (AO-73), an educational 1U (10 × 10 × 10 cm) CubeSat with the goal of enthusing and educating young people about radio, space, physics, and electronics, went into space last September. The satellite is performing well, and more than 500 stations around the world are receiving and decoding the telemetry, with many schools involved. FUNcube-1 is the smallest satellite ever to carry an Amateur Radio linear transponder — a 300 mW inverting SSB/CW type (435.150-435.130 MHz up/145.950-145.970 MHz down). The transponder has been switched on during weekends, and it is operational when the satellite is in eclipse. The telemetry is on 145.935 MHz (BPSK). The transmitter power also is 300 mW, but it operates only when the satellite is in sunlight.
A FUNcube guide developed by ARRL Education & Technology Program (ETP) Director Mark Spencer, WA8SME, aims to maximize the educational focus of the tiny AO-73 satellite. Spencer's Pragmatic Guide for Using the FUNcube (AO-73) Materials Science Experiment in the Classroom prompts readers to dig beyond AO-73's Amateur Radio transponder and telemetry uploads and downloads and "take a closer look at what is really going on" as the satellite orbits Earth.
The receiver, the FUNcube dongle, connects to the USB port of a laptop to display telemetry and messages "in a visually interesting and stimulating way," AMSAT-UK said. The satellites also carry a materials science experiment, from which students can receive telemetry to compare with results obtained from similar reference experiments in the classroom.
In addition to FUNcube-3, still in the wings is FUNcube-4, a payload on the ESEO microsat mission. ESEO incorporates experimental payloads from a number of universities around Euorpe. FUNcube-4 will provide similar telemetry to its predecessors but with a more powerful transmitter. The ESEO project is being funded by the European Space Agency (ESA) Education Office.
The FUNcube Project has been partially funded by a not-for-profit, The Radio Communications Foundation, set up to fund efforts that bring radio communication into classrooms and to "any other public place where hands-on demonstration can influence understanding."

AARC Minutes

By Alan Russell, KE5DTR

AARC Meeting Minutes: May 6, 2014

Meeting called to order: 7:06pm by President Lori Schmidt, KM5MQ.

Meeting started with a welcome, acknowledgement of 1 birthday and 1 new ham.

We had 39 in attendance, 2 visitors and no new members, changes, or upgrades.

Minutes: April's minutes approved as written in AARCOVER.

Past Events: ARES/MARS Field Day/Drill went well; the club, HSMM, & REACT had tables at the Makers Faire.

Announcements: Field Day is June 28 & 29; Field Day shirts being ordered for $15; the Central States VHF Comm. Conf. & the ARRL/TAPR Digital Comm. Conf. will be here is Austin later this year; membership dues are due; & club T-shirts/Polos for sale.
Upcoming Events: MS150; Williamson Co. Picnic; HAMCOM; and another Ham Cruise. These items, other upcoming events, and scheduled presentations are listed in the AARC Swapnet newsletter, at www.austinhams.org, and on the Yahoo user group.

REPORTS
Treasurer: almost finish fixing Quickbooks after an upgrade corrupted the files.

Editor: also had computer crash after a Windows upgrade, but computer has been fixed; so the newsletter is going out again, so send articles.

Tech Committee: still looking at options to improve repeater coverage to Cedar Park.

President/VP/ARES/SIGS: no reports.

No Old or New Business discussed.

Ham of the Month: Marie Vander Weele, KA5HFH.

Door Prizes: Stuart Rohre, K5KVH – Makers Magazine; Joe Thiel, N5SMN – book.

Space Wx: SC24 is going good with many recent flares and many possible future flares. Visit the Texas Army/MARS and other solar weather websites for more info.

There is a future possibility that a gift from the estate of Jim Greenwood, AB5EK, will be used to create a scholarship.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54pm.

Presentation: “ATXfloods.com” by Matt Porcher, K5LF.

Over the WWWaves...

Call to Arms...and Fingers!

Every once in a while, a shaking of the tree of membership is needed to encourage participation in probably the most visible arm of our club: the AARCOVER newsletter! If you have a hint or kink...or even have something you've recently read, write it up or send a link to editor Mitch London at aarcover @ aarc.org. Having been editor for two four-year stretches many years ago, I can attest to how much this helps make the publication not only grow in size, but it becomes useful and interesting to the readers. If you notice that the same names pop up almost monthly, think of how much fun it would be to share what you know with Austin area hams, as well as to see YOUR name and call sign in there.

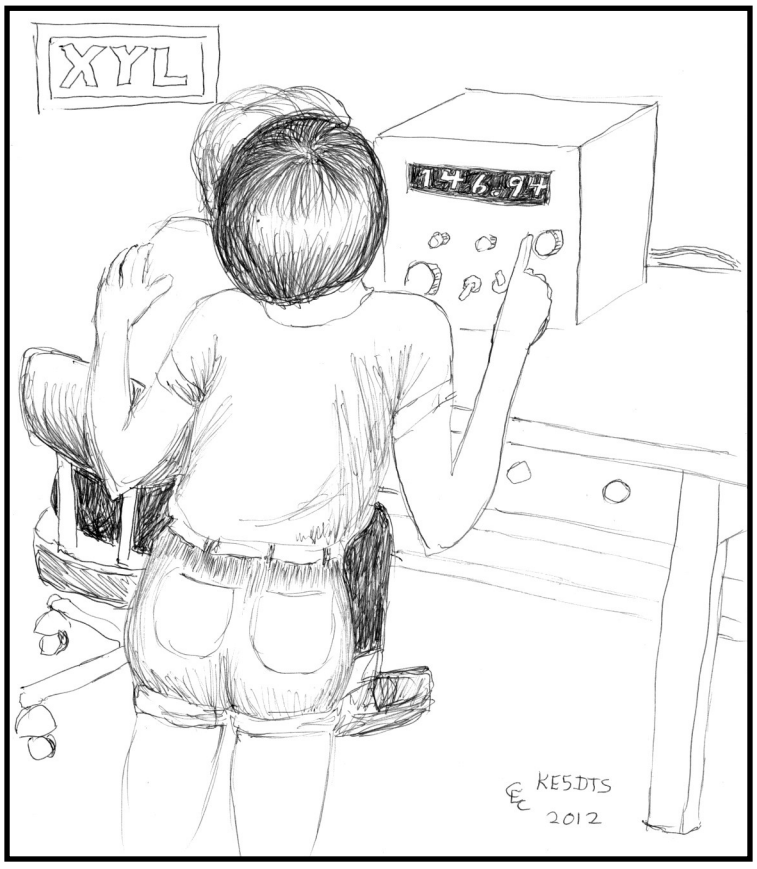
I started the Over the WWWaves links as a fairly regular column in the AARCOVER, in order for us to share links to good articles or fun blog posts by hams across the world. It provides a way to pack in information for the curious to share in to make the issues far larger in content than the pages of PDF attest to that you see on the surface each month. If you haven't taken advantage of following those links, give them a try. Who knows? You might even find yourself dipping into the storehouse of back issues available at http://austinhams.org/newsletter.htm to follow previous issue links.

Rick Herndon, K5FNI
Austin

XYL

By Carolyn Canfield, KE5DTS

"I know what this number is! It's our lottery number right."



AARC Meeting Info.
Waterloo Icehouse
8600 Burnet Rd. South of 183
(Come early and have dinner!)

Business Meeting 7:00 pm

June 3 - Stuart and Jeff will be discussing Field Day 2014 Activities!

Officers Meeting 6:30 pm

June 17 - Officers meetings are open to club members.

2013 Upcoming Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC– June 7th & July 5th 9a.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church. Contact Joe Makeever, W5HS (345-0800) or Joe Thiel, N5SMN (832-0450) for info. $15 fee.

W5YI VEC- June 21st and July 19th
2p.m. in **room 207**, Fleck Hall, St. Edwards Univ. Contact Craig Bean, AC5KW @arrl.net, (474-6443) for more info.
http://texashams.org/w5yi-austin/

2014 Calendar of Events

Jun 13-14 ***Ham-Com in Plano***
Plano Convention Center
http://www.hamcom.org/

Jun 28-29 ***Field Day*** weekend

Jul 4 ***Round Rock Fourth of July Parade***
Independence
Ken K7MAL@arrl.net

Jul 24-27 ***48th Annual CSVHFS Conference***
Austin Marriott South I35 at HWY 71
www.csvhfs.org

Aug 1-2 ***Austin Summerfest***
Crowne Plaza Austin 6121 North IH-35 NE Corner of IH-35N & US 290E
ARRL Texas State Convention.
Summer Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society.
$10 per-person admission
Crowne Plaza ph#- 512-323-5466.
Talk-in on 146.94(-)107.2HzPL
www.austinsummerfest.org/

Sept 5-7 ***33rd Annual ARRL & TAPR Digital Communications Conference***

Austin Marriott South, Austin, TX
http://www.tapr.org/dcc

Upcoming Meetings...

June	July	Austin Meetings/Happenings	Time	Address
3	1	AARC Meeting Waterloo Ice House	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
no	20	QCWA Tres Amigos $	1:30 p.m.	7535 U.S. 290
18	23	Digital Wednesday at CATRAC	7:00 p.m.	4100 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
23	28	Travis Co. REACT Jim's 183 & Burnet	7:30 p.m.	9091 Research Blvd.
24	22	Travis County A.R.E.S. Waterloo Icehouse%	7:00 p.m.	8600 Burnet Rd.
26	24	CERT Meeting, CTECC	6:30 p.m.	5010 Old Manor Rd.
24	22	CTDXCC Meeting Old Quarry Library	6:30 p.m.	7051 Village Ctr Dr.

% New Meeting Location for TCARES
$ QCWA Now meets quarterly visit http://www.qcwa.org/chapter067.htm for info